



LEGAL SALE OF FARM-RAISED SHELLFISH IN MARYLAND

Many people do not realize that a shellfish dealer has to be licensed by both the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) in order to buy and/or sell shellfish for human consumption.

- A shellfish aquaculture harvester who does not have BOTH of these licenses can ONLY sell to a seafood dealer with a DNR Seafood Dealer's License and a DHMH Shellfish Certification.
- If a shellfish aquaculture harvester does not want to sell his/her catch to a dealer that is licensed by both DNR and DHMH, then the harvester has to obtain a Shellfish Certification from DHMH. This certification allows the harvester to sell ONLY his/her own catch.
- If a shellfish aquaculture harvester would like to buy and sell shellfish from other harvesters in addition to his own catch, then the harvester has to obtain a DNR Seafood Dealer's License and a Shellfish Certification from DHMH.

Why two licenses? The Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission (ISSC), working cooperatively with the US Food and Drug Administration and member States, established the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Model Ordinance to provide Guidance on the safe and sanitary control of the growing, harvesting, processing and shipping of molluscan shellfish for human consumption. Every State that is a member of ISSC and a participant in NSSP has agreed to enforce the rules established in the Model Ordinance. These rules require all harvesters to be appropriately licensed by their respective states. In Maryland, these rules are incorporated into DHMH and DNR regulations and will be enforced by the Natural Resources Police for the safety of the shellfish industry and public health.

To obtain a **DNR Seafood Dealers License**, visit your Regional DNR Service Center.

To locate the closest Regional Service Center visit:

<http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/service/center.asp>

For more information or to apply for a **DHMH Shellfish Certification**, please contact Erin Butler at (443) 690-3079 or erin.butler@maryland.gov